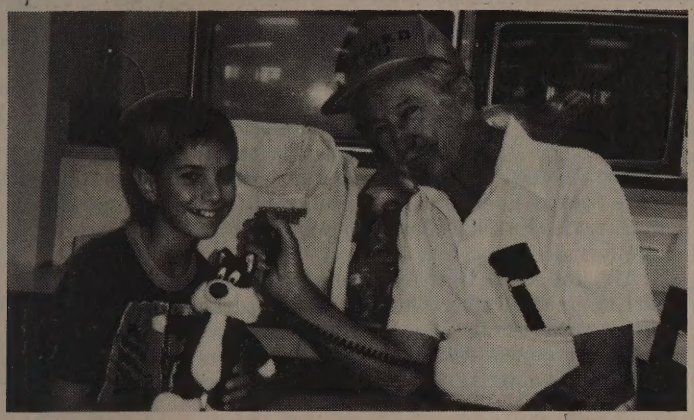
FLORIDA SKIP

VOL. 34 NO. 4 *THE ALL-FLORIDA AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATION* February 1992. *75 Cents*



Lou Dorfmeister KE4ARD presents toys to children at Miami Childrens Hospital. (Photo by WB 8 PMB, Al Willinger.)

NORTH POLE VIA TWO METERS?

By Norm Ward, K4RBR

The patients in the children's ward of various areas hospitals were treated to the phenomenon of talking to Santa Claus via two-meter handheld radio again this year as members of the Fellowship Amateur Radio Club made the rounds for the seventh consecutive year.

Lou Dorfmeister, KB4ARD, who has spearheaded this activity over the years, together with his "elves" Al Willinger, WB8PMB; Mickey Siegel, W4AYJ; Mike Rossman, W4GVJ; and Norm Ward, K4RBR, made the visits and allowed the children to talk to Santa and receive a nice stuffed toy and a packet of beautiful stickers to put on their books, lockers, etc. Some 300 toys were given out.

This year's committee chairman, Mike Kadel, N4UEY, was able to give Lou over $400.00 which the club had collected in donations for the purchase of the stuffed toys. The cash together with

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COMING EVENTS

Pinellas Park Boys Hamfest, Jan. 26, 1992
Miami Hamboree, Feb. 8 & 9th
Pensacola Hamfest, Feb. 15th
Sarasota Hamfest Feb. 14 & 15th
Brooksville Hamfest Feb. 29th
Stuart Hamfest Feb. 22
Orlando Hamcation & Comp Show Mar 13-15
Ft. Walton Bch/Swapfest Mar. 21 & 22nd.
Lake Co. Hamfest (LARA) Nov. 7, 1992.
Any other ??? Let us know ASAP. Editor.
Late: Poor-Mans Hamfest (Newberry, Apr 11

EGYPT AND AMATEUR RADIO

A SPECIAL TO FLORIDA SKIP

By Al Johnson, WA4CRV/SU8
Route 2, Box 719, Crestview, FL 32536

Not many years ago, back in the dark days of prehistoric history of amateur radio, everyone had to arrange an appointment with FCC to take the amateur radio license exam. Fantasize if you will, how many of us would be hams today if we had other complications associated with taking the exam, like paying $60.00 before you could take the exam as a token of your sincerity to the FCC.

This $60.00 would help cover the cost for a federal security investigating to ensure the government was not working for some subversive organization or intended to use the radio for some unauthorized purpose. Being a government official or a friend of an official would surely help.

Because no one is permitted to talk casually and freely on radio except in some official capacity, the average citizen never hears of a service that would allow the everyday working man to own or even listen to any radio reception, except government controlled television and radio broadcast.

For anyone to talk by radio to other parts of the world for the simple pleasure of it — in a country that even cordless telephones and satellite dishes are not permitted — is inconceivable.

The word "hobby" is not an everyday household word. For an average family who works six days a week for a monthly income of $120.00, this doesn't leave much time or money for such ridiculous things as "hobbies."

Or, you may be among the few to have a bizarre job that will allow you to afford or to acquire this unorthodox equipment . . . more because of your job than your income.

Because of living locations, you have to pack your three-element tri-band beam and antenna farm on a 30-foot free-standing tower on your six-story apartment roof less than 100 feet square.

Instead of a callbook, a sheet with some 25 names and calls would be adequate. All the call-signs would be the same as they all come from the same location. Out of this list of 25 or more, only six may be active.

Because so few ham tickets have been issued, a system of allocating call-signs is not yet a problem. All call letters are associated with names. If we had this system in America, Mr. John Smith would be "W4JS," Al Johnson would be "W4AJ" and Rob Tietze would be "W4RT" . . . all very simple and convenient.

Then there is the expense of registering the station. A tax of $6.00 per year must be paid on each piece of equipment in the shack. You must list each piece of equipment you have by type and make. You may later be summoned by the FCC to bring your equipment in to be verified each year or you may be visited at any time to confirm that the equipment in your shack is properly registered.

If you should replace one piece of equipment with another, and you do not properly register it, you must then borrow back the equipment you sold . . . to satisfy the annual examination.

Before you make the appointment to take the exam, the rules are that first you must have some equipment. With no equipment, you do not need nor can you obtain a license.

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DEADLINE: 8th of month in P.O. Box 501, Miami Springs, FL 33266.

(See Advertising Rates in Hambar Section)

SILENT KEYS

We are deeply sorry to report the passing of the following Florida Amateurs.. If you hear of any in your area kindly notify SKIP editor. Thanks.

W4KQR	Doug Habgood	St. Petersburg
WB4LTB	Joseph M. Moker, 51	Jupiter
WD4ROD	Keith Brown	Sumter SC
WA2RPC	Leon "Lee" Cohn	Mount Dora
KC4GJ	Wallice "Wally" Winthicum	Miami
WB4NSQ	Charles Zottu	Lakeland
KB4RRU	Rev. Francis J. Rabideau, 73	Jacksonville
N2CBK	Richard Bean	Deltona
WA2NRG	Howard T. Oakley	Naples
W3CT	Kline Mengle	Ormond Beach
W3KYL	Albert E. Linden	Palm Beach Gardens
K4AHH	Geo. Evans	Longwood
KB4BGG	Marilyn Sibthorpe	Ft. Lauderdale
WA4DLS	Cynthia Berry	Ormond Beach
KB4OVV	Daniel Krause	Palm Bay
W4QK	L. V. Colley	Pensacola
K4ZOZ	Hertert W. Booth	Sarasota
WB5ONH	Edward Fernandez	Indian Harbor Bch
WD4EOB	Donald Kelso	Lakeland
KC4VX	Bill Dickerson	Ft. Myers
N1GOW	Bob Hyssong	Ft. Myers.

READ THE TOP LINE

Your address (the top line) shows your Skip expiration date. If we don't receive your renewal fee by the 18th of that month the computer automatically kicks your address out on the next mailing and you will not receive any future issues.

We can't afford to send back issues. It cost us about 85¢ to send one copy (copy, postage and handling). So please send your renewals promptly.

BIG TOTALS

According to a recent press release from ARRL Field Forum, North Florida has 11,072 FCC licensees and 3,368 ARRL members. South Florida has 21,448 licensees and 5,787 ARRL members for a grand total of 32,520 licensees and 9,155 ARRL members.

BOY! THAT'S A LOT OF HAM!

NOW BIRDS

Please --- when you FLY N or S or any other place, please let us know at least 3 to 4 weeks in advance. We you move without advising us, the post office returns all you SKIPs and it cost us 35 cents for each issue. It used to be 15 cents but the increase it over 100 percent. Please help us do a better job for your..... Editor.

LETTERS

Dear Andy:

I want to thank you so much for your fine format in publishing my special article in Skip.

I have made copies of the three pages for distribution out of state, so Skip's front page will spread its wings a bit.

During the last few weeks, amateur radio has certainly left its mark in this area. I would greatly appreciate your help in telling Florida what great service all the volunteers contributed in this effort.

Best wishes for your continued success.

73,
Larry Amann, K5TQN
10 Angel Falls Circle
Ormond Beach, FL 32174

Editor's Note: "Amateur Radio Soars Again," elsewhere in this issue.

— A.C.

SPECIAL EVENT STATION FROM CRYSTAL RIVER MANATEE FESTIVAL

By Dick Barrett, KK4NQ
Homosassa, Florida

The Sky High Amateur Radio Club of Citrus County will sponsor a Special Event Amateur Radio Station in conjunction with the Manatee Festival being held Februaryf 15th and 16th, in Crystal River, Florida.

The station will be on the air during the hours of festival operation, contacting other amateur radio operators throughout the USA and worldwide. We will provide outside public speakers so that those attending the festival can hear our operators talking with other amateurs about Crystal River and the purpose of the festival.

We hope to create publicity for the Crystal River area and also expand public awareness of the plight of the manatee. The club will provide a special certificate to be sent to those stations making contact with this Special Event Station.

Listen for "Special Event — Manatee Festival" on 10, 15 and 20 meters on those dates. Make a contact and send for the certificate.

PROFILES OF THE MONTH

Another fine operator and gentleman is Jim Sparks, AA4BN. Jim is our NCS on Monday nights and QFN liaison on Sunday nights.

Jim was licensed in 1965 and had aliases of WN4BMR and WB4BMR. Jim was born in Missouri and raised in the "show me" state and that's spelled, "Missoura."

He's been in Florida for 43 years, is married, has one son, one daughter and three grandchildren. Jim was an appliance/refrigerator technician who retired from Sears, Roebuck and now runs his own business.

He likes to design antennas and his hobby of course is amateur radio. He uses a Drake TR7A and his antenna farm consists of a 80/4& dipole, 80/40/20 rhombic and a Mosley TA36 for 20/15/10.

How did Jim get to "ham radio"? Well! During WWII he was a Navy operator who was in on the "big one," the battle of Leyte Gulf. Jim received a Letter of Commendation for his efforts in that theater.

So, the next time you're at a hamfest, be sure to look this guy up. I'll guarantee you, you'll have an interesting discussion.

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TOP TWENTY TRAFFICERS — DECEMBER, 1991

By WA4PFK and N4SS

STATION	TOTAL	STATION	TOTAL
1. W3CUL	3,539	11. K4EUK	578
2. W3VR	1,504	12. WA4EIC	511
3. K4FQU	1,355	13. WC4D	501
4. KB6ECH	1,206	14. AA4HT	491
5. WA4QXT	1,101	15. K4ZK	469
6. WA9VND	911	16. K4IA	406
7. WX4H	843	17. AA4FG	366
8. N4SS	807	18. KB4WBY	342
9. WD4IIO	773	19. AA4BN	299
10. K4SCL	616	20. WA4PFK	291

TRAFFIC HOUNDS — DECEMBER, 1991

By K4ZK, STM South Florida

NET	QNI	AVG. QNI	QTC	AVG. QTC	SESSIONS	MGR	QTC/QNI
QFN	1,083	17.5	1,332	21.5	62	WA4GYR	1.22
FPTN	1,322	42.6	611	19.7	31	WB4WYG	0.46
SWFTN	734	28.2	571	22.0	26	K4FQU	0.77
FMTN	625	20.2	506	16.3	31	WX4H	0.80
TPTN	558	18.0	403	13.0	31	WB0HOX	0.72
SEFTN	1,176	37.9	367	16.8	31	KD4GR	0.31
GN	215	6.9	332	10.7	31	W4DL	1.54
FMSN	395	12.7	291	9.4	31	WA4QXT	0.73
NFPN	3,228	104.1	250	8.1	31	WA4NDA	0.07
FAST	507	8.2	191	3.1	62	WD4KBW	0.37
SVTN	664	22.1	99	3.3	30	KC4ONA	0.14
FPON	349	11.3	73	2.4	31	WB4GCK	0.20
QFNS	204	6.5	66	2.1	31	AA4CH	0.32
SPARC	567	18.3	38	1.2	31	N4ZMQ	0.06
PBTN	726	27.9	24	0.9	26	WB2OUK	0.03
AIN	50	12.5	10	2.5	4	WA4PFK	0.20
ENMC	36	9.0	3	0.3	4	K4ZK	0.08
SFAN	44	11.0	3	0.8	3	KD4GR	0.06

Total QTC: 5,170 • Average QTC/QNI: .45

FLORIDA C.W. NETS

By Ed, K4IA

QFNS Notes by Cef, AA4CH: We were sorry to learn that Sam, N4BGS had a lung and rib removed, but glad to hear him back with a husky voice and a hot key. We wish you well in 1992, Sam.

I had a short, but nice visit to the Orlando area. I went to see the other Goofy. Instead, saw my brother, his XYL, my daughter and two grandsons. Also visited Walt, WA4QXT and Pauline and met Zeus, the yellow lab. Got to see Walt's new super executive chair for his ham shack.

Nineteen individuals checked in passing 66 pieces of traffic in 620 minutes. The five top stations were: Jim, KD4GR; O.B., WC4D: Don, N4IWO; Dick, WA4PFK; and Laura, WA9VND.

Now about recruiting new traffic handlers. If I offered a nickel for each novice or technician you brought or sent to the Slow Speed Net at 8:00 p.m., on 3715 KHz, would that entice you to help? We could then add new meaning to good luck in the contest.

—73,
Cef

QFN Manager Don, WA4GYR Writes: CQ all Florida amateurs and QFN members. Now that another year is behind us it's time to set some New Year's resolutions for QFN 1992.

The first resolution being: instead of trying to see how fast we can send, all members should concentrate on sending slower code either as NCS, net liaison or just passing traffic. The faster we send, the more mistakes we tend to make thereby slowing down the movement of traffic; teaching newcomers that it's alright to send fast and make numerous errors instead of slowing down and making fewer or no mistakes as well as discouraging newcomers to not participate because they may not be able to copy at a high rate of speed.

The next resolution is to work on getting net reports promptly to the manager, preferably in alphabetical call order. This helps keep the manager from having to scramble at the end of each month to total out the statistics and prepare them for the appropriate officials.

In closing, let's all try our best to adopt these resolutions for 1992. This in turn will make QFN better than in 1991.

—73,
Don

Gator Net Notes by Dan, W4DL: Mark and his XYL Rosa will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on March 1st.

Chris, N4EKC got a copy of a letter from the FCC to the local power company to take action in 10 days regarding his interference problem.

Charley, WA4EYU says he learned his XYL faces a hip replacement soon. We wish them the best.

George, K4JI still phoning to get satisfaction on his damaged Kenwood 950. UPS ain't helping.

Sam, N4BGS after a lung removal is good, looks good and back on the air. Tough guy.

Dick, N2AOX says the XYL doing much better. Now he is looking for help to replace a number three cylinder exhaust valve.

Andy, W4IYT is busy teaching video production at a Miami Springs school.

Al, W4DL's XYL says she heard the BBC on the new combo microwave and convection oven, but the biscuits could be bounced!

Mae, W3CUL advises that Al, W3VR's recent injury slow, but improving. Also, says that Don, N4ET past net manager has had a hip replacement.

We welcome check-ins. Join us on 7068 KHz at 0830 local time daily.

—73,
Dan

FMSN Reported by Walt, WA4QXT: Wow, what a month. Lots of QNI and QTC 291 taking 953 minutes for an average QND of 30.7. The number following the call-sign indicates the times a job was performed by the station. NCS: AA4BN, five; K4IA, five; WA4QXT, five; WC4D, four, AA4FG, three; AA4HT, two; and WA9VND, two.

Our new Tuesday NCS, N4CYV started December 31st. Welcome to Tom.

TPTN Rep: AA4FG, 15; KC4FL, four; WA9VND, three; N4UAV, one; and N4CYV, one.

QFN Rep: AA4BN, 10; WC4D, seven; AA4HT and KC4ECA, five; KB4DF, four; AA4CH, three; and one each for KC4FL, W1KAM and K4IA.

There were 34 different stations QNI in December, WC4D QNI 31, followed by WA4QXT with 30. Those with 20 or more: AA4BN, KO4DR, AA4FG, W1KAM, N4UAV and WA9VND.

Come join us on FMSN, the Florida Medium-Speed Net — not too fast or too slow. We meet on 3561 KHz daily at 5:30 p.m.

—73,
Walt

On QFN there are not many stations available to take over as NCS. If you are interested in controlling a busy net, a good way to prepare is to write down each station and their traffic on lined paper. Pencil in vertical lines for indicating the off-frequency assignments. Then as the NCS pairs the stations up or down from the net frequncy mark this down in the column on the line that station is listed. Additional stations sent to the same channel are numbered in order and crossed off as they return to the net. K4ZK showed me this system several years ago and I like it.

Let me know if you want a sample NCS log.

—73,
Ed, K4IA

S.S.B. NETS

By Joe Scungio, N4KFU

To begin the New Year I wish to thank several net managers for their timely submissions throughout the past year. These fellow's do all the work and get the articles in so I can get them on to **Skip**.

It was great to welcome Mort, WX4H for FMTN. His reports are timely and very newsy which certainly is nice for FMTN members who participate throughout the year. His articles I am sure are a welcomed addition.

QSY NET TO P. 6

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Net From P. 4

Traffic on the nets as usual was very heavy and hectic as is normal at the end of the year. It will slow down some, but I'm sure all the net managers would welcome any additional volunteers to help out. Now is the time to jump in, get your feet wet and have a lot of fun.

Some time ago I didn't know if I could help with these articles and some would probably say that's still the case, but you never know 'til you give it a shot. Like anything else, a little effort combined with desire to learn and the help of others and accepting that you will make mistakes will usually help you to succeed.

Therefore, I made sure I obtained a spell-checker for my computer as my spelling and typing quite often need help. As I ran the spell-checker for the first time to check my article it highlighted "Scungio." I can tell you that this spelling has produced some mighty unusual pronounciations, but as all good spell-checkers usually do, it proceeded to suggest the proper alternative spelling which was "Sungod."

"Heh Heh Dick, old N4KFU's net procedure might need some help, but this is one heck of a good spell checker!!!"

It really isn't a big deal Bill, and I didn't give it much thought George, but the XYL simply refuses to buy me another dozen copies for my birthday!!!

Hope you all have a great year! —73's
Sungod

From FPTN Net Manager Bill, WB4WYG: With the Xmas traffic it was a big month as usual. Check-ins averaged 42.6 with the net handling 611 pieces of traffic. The average time per message was 2.06. This indicates intensive cooperation between the NCS, stations bring traffic, stations handling traffic and those stations that stood by to relay or try to find a frequency that could be used.

Net members also displayed good net discipline. The net manager says a great big "thank you" and a "well done" to accomplish this in time of a large traffic load.

Thirty-two stations checked in 80 percent of net sessions with the following stations checking in 100 percent of net sessions: N2AOX, KI4CQ, K4EJW, WA4EYU, WA4JDH, K4KIC, KB4MON, WA4NBE WB4QKI, K4SJA, W4SME, WB4TZR, WA9VND, KI4VT, KB4WCX, WB4ZVD and WB4WYG.

On December 22nd, WD4COL had 40 pieces of traffic that was handled in 60 minutes for an average of 1.5 minutes per message. This was a nice piece of work by both WD4COL and the stations involved.

AA4CH of Perrine has agreed to assist the net as an alternate NCS and we are grateful for this.

We regret to report the passing of Hal Shea, W4BKC a longtime member and friend of FPTN on December 19th. We sure miss his cheery voice from the Sanford area.

Drop in 3940 at 7:00 a.m. and join this excellent group of traffic handlers.

From SWFTN Net Manager Earl, K4FQU: I want to wish a happy New Year to the crew of SWFTN. It was a great year and I thank each of you for your support and talents to make the net such a good one. The net continues to be recognized as one of the main sources for generating traffic in the state.

The net suffers the usual problem of having enough help, bu that is just a part of being a traffic net. I have a few people work ing up the nerve to take the reins and will be ready soon. I hope t see many of you here for the Ft. Myers Hamfest on January 18th.

During 1991, the net had over 1,800 check-ins and passed ove 4,000 pieces of traffic. I believe that during 1922 it will be ever greater. I feel that the net provides a great service to the local community thanks to all that participate.

73's to all.

From FMTN Net Manager Mort, WX4H: By the time you all read this article the season will be completed and thanks to all on the FMTN for their undivided efforts, patience and enthusiasm handling the traffic in, out and about the State of Florida.

N4BGS has been having health problems which has seriously reduced his efforts on all nets. We certainly miss his warm-ups plus he was an NCS on Mondays. Sam was always prompt and full of good cheer. We miss him, so get well Sam!

NR2F (Charles of Dunnellon), N4NCR (Gene of Bartow) and KC4VHY (Frank of Altamonte Springs) were welcomed to the net. Additional check-ins were: N4THE (Edith of Starke), W4NRT (from Rockledge) and WA4RIL of St. Augustine. WB0HOX, Helen, came in a few times.

WB4DNT will no longer be with us, but promised to check in as often as possible.

KB9LT continues to be missed, but it was nice to hear N9DRE, Thelma, say hello. Do it more often Thelma.

We are missing some of our NCS's, but N4NDA is back in his Tuesday slot, thank goodness. Nils also fills in as the need arises and that is a big help.

WA4QXT continues to do yeoman work for the net as well as W7YWF and WA4JDH. Old Grits gets better with age. Hi!!!

If anyone is interested in helping out with warm-ups please contact me as it will be greatly appreciated. It was good to hear them.

Traffic as usual was high during the month and it will slow some now, so all you folks who have friends and relatives in/out of state, ought to send a message to them with an ARL Seven so they will reply. That would help us keep a little busier and keep our skills honed.

A reminder that N4SS needs the SAR's and PSHR's a little sooner. We should get them to him by the evening of the fourth day of the month because they have deadlines, so that WA4PUP and WA4PFK can get the info to QST. **Florida Skip** also has a deadline for it's traffic articles. Don't give up on the traffic list for the net.

Hope you sent your name in. If not, you may add at any time. Just give your name, call and location and the NCS will pencil it in on the roll.

In closing a few old standards for FMTN or any net participation for the New Year might be to zero beat the NCS, help out whenever possible in relaying traffic to other nets, be prompt with SAR's, etc. and keep checking in often during the year and have fun.

73's and have a great 1992 — Mort, WX4H.

SARASOTA HAMFEST
& COMPUTER SHOW

LOCATION:
Robart's Sports Arena, Sarasota Fairgrounds, 3000 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL

WHEN:
** Friday, February 14, 1992 **
Saturday, February 15, 1992

TIME:
** Friday - 1 PM - 8 PM
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PACKET DECEMBER STATISTICS
By SFL Packet Mangaer Kay, W8DUV

Station	Bulletins	Personal	NTS	Total	Type*
W2TKU	1,440	4,439	1,075	6,954	AGH
W4DPH	1,306	4,123	875	6,304	BGH
W8DUV	2,167	2,819	493	5,479	BH
KE2IX	1,658	2,226	655	4,539	BH
KP4OO	2,420	1,893	105	4,418	BH
W7LUS	1,942	1,625	89	3,656	BH
KB4VOL	2,109	1,158	62	3,329	BS
KB4UAH	2,295	662	30	2,987	BGT
N4DWY	1,032	1,355	561	2,948	B
W4MWP	1,436	1,173	267	2,876	BGH
N4JOA	2,084	543	38	2,665	B
WD4NKZ	1,407	617	73	2,097	B
KB4OAM	1,742	322	3	2,067	B
WD8IBY	1,475	457	73	2,005	B
K0ZXF	954	919	57	1,930	BS
WB2WPA	1,388	488	34	1,910	BS
K4GBB	1,351	237	9	1,597	B
KB4GBS	897	604	28	1,529	BS
N4ZIQ	850	228	24	1,102	B
KA4GDV	560	170	16	746	B
W8DUW	467	262	10	739	BS
N4GMU	266	361	91	718	B
Totals	31,246	26,681	4,668	62,595	

*Type:
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PACKET HELP

If you've lost the packet address of a friend, or perhaps you wonder if a certain ham is on packet yet . . .

Connect to a BBS running RLI (W0RLI program) and type I N4SCY (carriage return). If N4SCY has been on packet recently, the BBS will reply:

On 911124 N4SCY @ W4DPH.#TPA.FL.USA.NA zip 33623 Ozzie Clearwater FL

To send Ozzie a message, all you really need to do is type SP N4SCY and your home BBS will add the rest of the address.

If you got a different reply such as: N4SCY: Not Found, you could try another approach. Type:
REQQTH @ KB4GBS.#TPAFL.FL.

In the subject line, type: N4SCY.

When prompted for the mag, type Ctrl Z. (no msg). Within minutes or hours, depending on where you are, you'll receive the callbook address. Learn to use your home BBS.

For the above information and much, much more, Connect, type: H I and see what the board has to offer its users.

HOLLYWOOD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (HARC)
By MARIE SNOW, WA4KXQ

The Hollywood Amateur Radio Club installed new officers and presented honorary awards at the club's December 16th Annual Banquet at The Sands Restaurant in Miramar.

The following will direct the club activities in 1992: President Bob Young, KC4KME; Vice President Russ Sweeten, KC4ZHN; Treasurer Joy Middleton, KB4OMW; Recording Secretary Patty Saglio, KC4ASN; and Communications Officer Tom Middleton, WB4CKY. The Directors are: Saul Greenberg, KN2P; Al Kraut, KC4DAF; Pete Saglio, KB4NSA; Marie Snow, WA4KXQ; Marv Vergon, K4EXO; Tom Watkins, KC4QCH; and Dan Welker, WB4SSP.

Pete Saglio, KB4NSA, and outgoing president of HARC, was named HARC Ham of the Year. This award is always bestowed upon that individual through whose efforts the club has gone forward and grown in scope and achievements in the designated period.

HARC will sponsor another novice/no-code technician class commencing on Wednesday, February 19th, at 7:00 p.m. at St. James Episcopal Church, 3329 Wilson Street, Hollywood. The class will run for 14 weeks.

Class fee is $20.00 and the text is $19.00. Licensing exams will be administered to both potential novices and no-code technicians as follows: novice, no charge; no-code technician, $5.25.

PLAYGROUND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB PRESENTS
OUR 22ND ANNUAL

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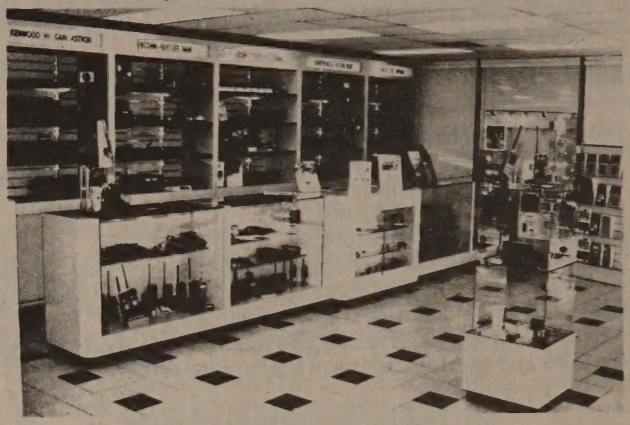

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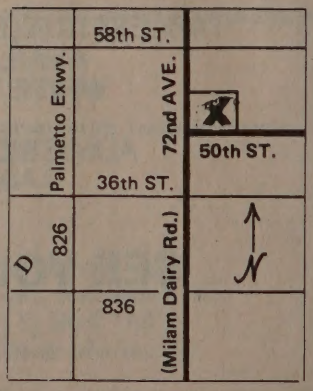


QCWA, Inc.

FLORIDA Q.C.W.A. NEWS
Edited by Eli Nannis, K4JMH

FLORIDA STATE Q.C.W.A. NEWS

The chapter reports should be returned to our main office as soon as possible. Please complete these forms as soon as possible as the information is put in a special data base and it is available to the board for various projects. For the time being, our headquarters will not have the Visa or MasterCard facilities available at the present time.

All members are requested to check your membership date. Don't allow it to elapse.

We have a new chapter which will be called the Foothills of the Ozarks Chapter Number 180. Welcome to the family of QCWA.

The new QCWA headquarters address is: 159 East 16th Street, Eugene, OR 97401; telephone (503) 683-0987.

At the Canton, Ohio, QCWA Convention, Leo Meyerson, W0GFQ was named QCWA Member of the Year. Leo certainly deserved this honor.

The Hall of Fame Award was bestowed upon Richard Baldwin, W1RU. This is only the eighth Hall of Fame Award every presented by QCWA. This year he will head an IARU observation team of six people who will attend the upcoming WARC Conference in Spain.

QCWA offers a number of recognition awards and Awards Chairman Robert Rickey, NF6P is always looking for recommendations.

SUNCOAST CHAPTER

There were 67 members and guests present at our regular monthly meeting at the House of Chong in Sarasota.

We are sorry to report a "silent key," Wilson Baird, W8MBB and a donation will be sent to the memorial fund.

Two new members were introduced: John Fogle, WD7H and Bob Armstrong, W8IWA.

Swede Hogbert, W4TAH reported on recent actions of the FCC. More amateur problems are to be handled, especially interference complaints. Manufacturers will be expected to do more to protect their products from interference.

John Wilig, W8ACE gave a resume of his career in engineering in the signal corps and as a civilian employee of the government. One of the highlights of his work was a lengthy interview with Dr. Yagi. He spoke on getting the Dayton Hamvention started and his participation in its growth.

Attendance is now approximately 32,000 and is limited primarily by available housing. The original committee was invited to attend the 40th anniversary of the event and six of the seven was present.

— Reported by Bob Bookwalter, W4NWF

SUWANNEE CHAPTER

Our chapter held its annual meeting and installation of officers for the year 1992 with 33 members in attendance.

Retiring President Ray Chartier, W1RFE introduced the officers and directors and noted that W1MRJ, Tom McDonald, the elected vice president could not assume office due to his health. The members acted promptly to vote William Menner, K2YMQ to the vice president position.

The slate is as follows: President Douglas Morick, W3NNT, Vice President William Menner, K2YMQ and Secretary/Treasurer Daisy Coleman, W4QAV. The Directors are: Arthur Anderson, W4OZR and Roland Medler, W4ANN. Ray Chartier, W1RFE is the retiring president.

The chapter once again made a donation to the Rape and Spouse Abuse Center of Ocala. The amount equaled $150.00 and an anonymous contributor added an extra $50.00, bringing the total to $200.00.

The President then turned the spotlight on several members of the chapter. The response for this impromptu presentation was excellent and it may become an annual event. We get to know each other much better.

President Doug Morick expects to call a meeting of the directors in early 1992 to make plans for the year and resolve the meeting place situation.

The next meeting on February 27th, will be at Shoney's in Ocala. Any future location changes will be announced in the bi-monthly newsletter.

— Reported by Ray Chartier, W1RFE

PALM BEACH CHAPTER

Our annual Christmas meeting was held on December 17th at the Piccadilly Restaurant in Lake Park. We had a total of 24 members and guests in attendance. Presents were exchanged and everyone had an excellent time.

President Bob McDow, W4KOG informed us of the changes which have taken place in the national organization and advised them of the latest address changes. He also mentioned that the chapter dues were due and that the chapter report was being prepared for submission, so any changes or additions should be given to the secretary, Hank Gorman, W4RQK as soon as possible.

Burck Grosse, KC4UEV made a request for contributions to the Toys for Tots Fund and received a total of $50.00, which will be matched by an equal amount by a local benefactor. Burck has raised enough to provide over $4,500.00 in toys for the local Marine Corps Toys for Tots effort this year. A lot of the credit goes to the members of the various amateur radio groups. Well done, Burck.

The January meeting will feature our annual auction, so everyone should get all their goodies together and bring them on the 28th to the meeting at the Piccadilly Restaurant. Spread the word and bring a guest.

— Reported by Bob McDow, W4KOG

A Group photo of the Pelican QCWA chapter at their Nov. 20, 1991 picnic. See anyone you know? (Photo by W4TAD)

SUNCOAST CHAPTER

Thirty-two members and guests attended the annual chapter picnic and election meeting held at the Coast Guard Radio Station Picnic Grounds on Southwest 117th Avenue and 160th Street in Perrine.

Once again the ladies provided an outstanding array and variety of delectable and delicious covered-dishes ranging from the basic fried chicken to the gourmet lasagna, Swedish meatballs and chicken parmagiana. This was topped by the variety of desserts including the piece de resistance, a delicious chocolate cake which did little to maintain the waistline.

Elections were held for the coming year and all incumbents were re-elected. Officers for 1992 are: President John Beck, W4COG; Vice President Harry Pilafian, W4SOG; Secretary Art Rauch, W4VZ; Treasurer Marion Rauch, WB4RFB; and Recording Secretary Sid Wolfeld, KJ4AS.

Tom Jones, KB4OI bought his first ham rig and assembled it for the members to examine. It was a rotary spark gap transmitter rated at a kilowatt. Unfortunately, we couldn't put it on the air as the Coast Guard operators on duty would have made us bug out.

After the delicious lunch, we held a sing-a-long with Audrey, KB4ZQU, XYL of Vice President Harry Pilafian on the organ. Everyone enjoyed singing the old Christmas songs and Audrey was great on the organ.

The chapter wishes to thank Chief Petty Officer Mendez of the Coast Guard Radio Station for making it possible for the chapter to use the facilities.

Happy holidays to all.

— Reported by Sid Wolfeld, KJ4AS

GATOR CHAPTER

The December 7th meeting was attended by 31 members and guests.

Bart Bridge, W2ZYQ opened the meeting and the invocation was given by Lou Webber, K4HWS who asked for a "silent key" prayer in remembrance of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, 50 years ago.

Our treasurer, Bill Turner, W2WV accepted donations to be matched by the chapter and given to the Religious Community Services, Inc., a very worthy charity. Bill, W2WV and XYL Sissy provided the table decorations and candy favors for all.

Eli K4JMH, secretary and XYL missed this meeting as they were on a cruise.

No one was reported in sickness or distress.

The President asked the members to describe where they were and what they were doing 50 years ago on December 7th. Many interesting episodes were given.

On behalf of our members of Gator Chapter QCWA we wish all members of QCWA a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

— Reported by Corinne Bridge

PELICAN CHAPTER

The fourth and the annual chapter meeting of the 1991-92 season was held at the Homestyle Family Buffet.

President Blanche Randles, W4GXZ presided. Communications were given by Dutch, KF4DI and W3WM. Also, a letter was read from our previous secretary, Paul Turner, W1DLP, who moved away and is now a member of the Citrus Chapter.

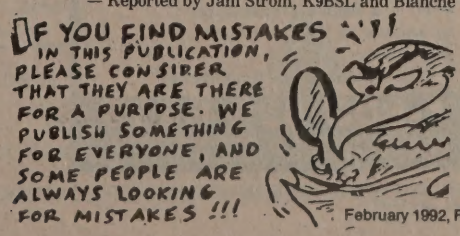
A Christmas collection was collected and matched by our treasury. The total amount was $112.00 and this was given to two charities in the St. Petersburg area.

The Selection Committee for the 1991 Phil Stern Award presented this award to Jay Strom, K9BSL. Jay is a very active member and serves QCWA in many ways. He has served the chapter as president, treasurer and presently as secretary. He is chairman of the 1993 National Convention to be held in St. Petersburg. He was presented with a beautiful plaque. His XYL Jackie is by his side and assisting in all of his endeavors.

The officers for 1992 are: President Eli Nannis, K4JMH; Vice President Ralph Luedke, K9MOR; Secretary Jay Strom, K9BSL; and Treasurer Don Bice, W4PCO.

A standing ovation was afforded Blanche, W4GXZ for her leadership as president during the year of 1991.

— Reported by Jam Strom, K9BSL and Blanche Randles, W4GXZ



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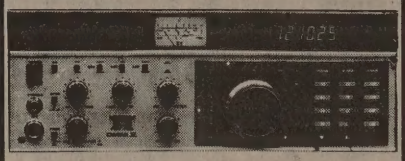

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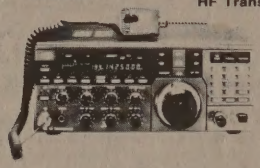

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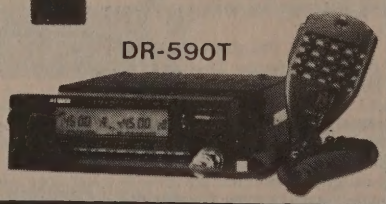

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FLORIDA ARMY M.A.R.S. NEWS

By Lorraine S. Matthew, AAM3PR

1992 opened for Florida Army MARS with challenges and opportunities. The challenges of continuing its quality of service in all areas are being met and the opportunities to serve and expand are welcomed. Florida Army MARS members are top-notch operators who meet their Army MARS commitments and responsibilities in a most professional manner.

Major changes have occurred, and continue to occur in the Army MARS program. Adjustments have been made and the commitment to excellence by the Florida Army MARS staff and membership has been maintained.

My commendation to Bert Fow, Florida State MARS director for his fine leadership echoes the sentiments of the entire Florida Army MARS corps of operators.

January, 1992, opened the new ham/swapfest season. Army MARS will be well represented at most of the major hamfests in the country with booths and MARS meetings or forums. Most of these ventures will be all-service MARS and some will be individual service MARS. The Orlando Hamcation will feature both. While the booth at Orlando will be multi-service, there will be an Army MARS forum as well as joint services forum.

It is hoped that every hamfest will have MARS representation of some type. While some hamfests lend themselves to an elaborate booths with field stations, others require only a simple table. That simple table can be most effective if it is well planned to be both attractive and informative.

It seems appropriate to give some guidelines for the setting up and operation of hamfest booths or tables, especially for those who may be participating in this activity for the first time.

1. Determine if the hamfest table will be Army MARS only or a multi-service booth/table*. This will, in part, dictate the posters and the operation of the table. If multi-service, coordinate with your other service counterparts if possible.

2. Determine the layout of the hamfest and the position of the booth. This, too, greatly influences the design of the table itself. Look for electrical outlets and sufficient power if a demonstration is to be set up.

3. Inquire about the size of the table and whether or not it will be already covered by the Hamfest Committee. If not, provide a cover that will present a colorful background. At Pensacola, a brightly colored Mexican blanket was used and received good response from potential members.

4. If the table has a wall or partition behind it, plan on hanging posters or a banner.

5. Request extra chairs for the table area. Many MARS members like a place to congregate and sit, and many will help work the table. Have a sign-up sheet for members to work the table so that one person isn't required to be there for the entire hamfest. Don't be afraid to ask members to babysit the table. They will end up enjoying themselves immensely.

6. Provide sign-up pads or clip boards for MARS members to sign in as they stop by the table. Columns should include call-sign, name and location of station. If possible, have a separate pad or clip board for each service.

7. Provide a sheet for prospective members to write down their names and addresses so that appropriate materials might be sent to them. It is assumed that MARS flyers are available at the table.

8. With all these sign-ups, be sure to bring extra pencils. The original three or four in use do tend to wander off. A notebook for any other types of notes would be very handy.

9. Have some message forms available so that people can send MARSgrams. Setting up a station to do this is not required. (If you were to set up an attraction at a shopping mall, a station might be quite an attraction — but, again, not essential.)

10. Be prepared to answer questions. Know the requirements for joining MARS and some of the history of MARS,

QSY to page 15.

F R E E 1992 C A L E N D A R

For the 19th year, FLORIDA SKIP is sending to it's members a Ham Shack Size calendar. The one shown here is in four colors, actual size. If you would like one, send us a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE) any size. Send it with your Renewal payment or any HAMBAR ad. We give one day service. They are Free, but donations accepted. Editor. SEASONS GREETing to all.

IS THE DIPPER OBSOLETE? HECK NO!

By Art Rose, W1PXL
6453 31st Avenue No., St. Petersburg, FL 33710

The dipper is an instrument that performs many functions. It was once called a **grid dip meter**, now called a **solid state dipper** or **dip meter**.

The dipper is one of the most common of instruments used by radio ham's or hobbiest in the radio frequency field. The dip meter is a tunable oscillator — frequency meter usually + or - two percent to determine the resonant frequency of de-energized RF circuits.

Generally, the selected coil (inductor) for the dipper is placed close to the RF circuit being checked. As the tuning dial is rotated and comes within the resonant frequency the meter will dip, this dip may be sharp and easily missed if the dial is turned too quickly.

Other functions may be performed, such as a field-strength meter (relative). Also, crystals can be checked, the self-resonant frequency of antennas, **tank circuits**, unknown capacitances and inductances including the self-resonant frequency of RF chokes.

Most dippers operate from 2 MHz to 250 MHz using anywhere from five to seven plug-in coils. .

As a collector of dippers (19 different ones) and should the readers like to have a part two of this article, I would come up with some design information including coil and capacitor specifications.

—73
The Dipper Man

The All Florida Radio Amateur's Publication

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1992 **JANUARY** 1992

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
N.M. 4	F.Q. 13	F.M. 19	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	L.Q. 26

LAST MONTH **DECEMBER** 1991

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NEXT MONTH **FEBRUARY** 1992

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

HERNANDO COUNTY HAMFEST

FEBRUARY 29, 1992 BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

HERNANDO COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS AUDITORIUM & EXHIBITION BUILDING

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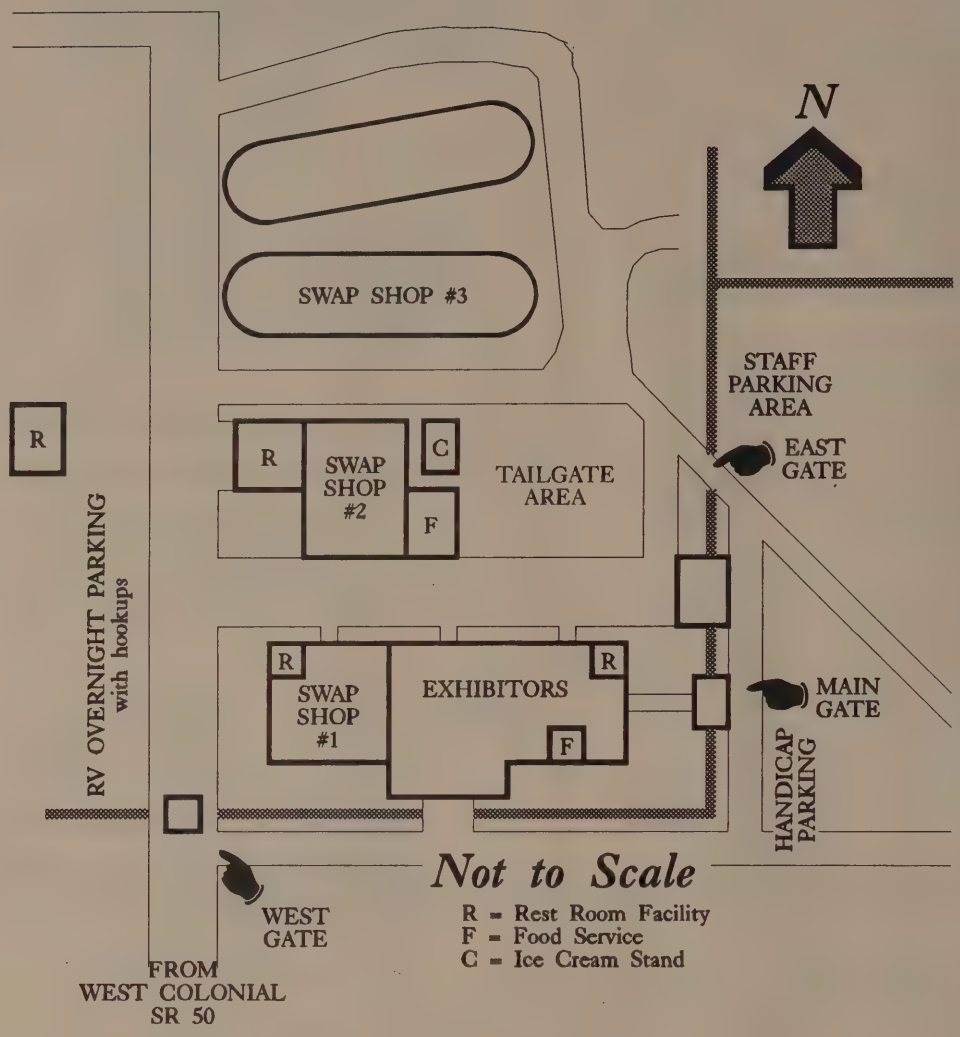
N
SWAP SHOP #3
STAFF PARKING AREA
EAST GATE
R
R
SWAP SHOP #2
C
F
TAILGATE AREA
RV OVERNIGHT PARKING with hookups
R
SWAP SHOP #1
EXHIBITORS
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F
MAIN GATE
HANDICAP PARKING
Not to Scale
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R = Rest Room Facility
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per draped booth which includes table, 2 chairs, and electric

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Advance Admission Tickets - $6.00 each person X _____ = _____
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MARS from page 10.

its accomplishments and anything else of interest. Keep everything positive. You are representing all of the MARS members. Make sure prospective members know that they will probably need to modify their equipment to meet the MARS requirements.

11. Be sure to clean up your area after the hamfest is over.

Enjoy yourself. Such participation shows that MARS members are a most desirable groupo with whom to be associated.

Here's to 1992 and a most successful hamfest/swapfest season.

Watch for continuing news and notes concerning member participation in the DMAT exercises with MARS as a cooperative venture, the new "Operation: Care" public relations campaign developed by Matt, AAT4MD for Florida and its adaptation for eastern area, and many other items.

Let's make 1992 a most productive and newsworthy year.

**Table will mean booth or table throughout these guidelines.*

AMATEUR RADIO SOARS AGAIN

By Larry Amann, K5TQN

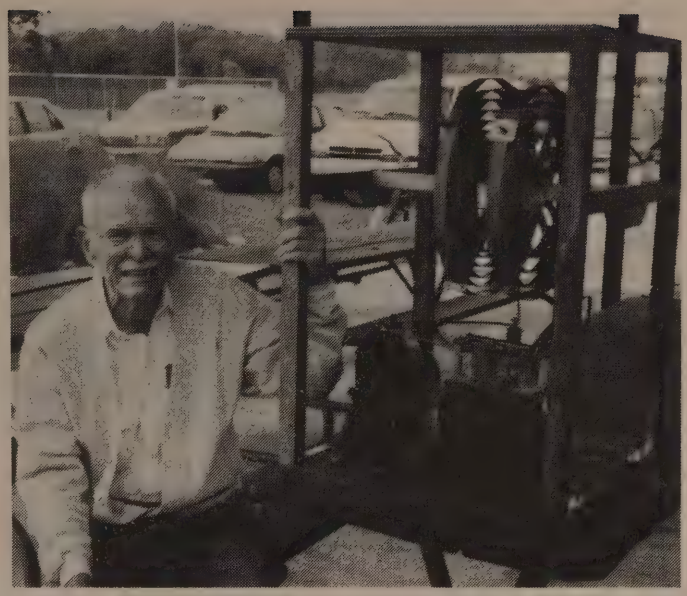
In a 16-day period from November 29th to December 14th, members of the Daytona Beach Amateur Radio Association, assisted by non-members in this area, either directed, coordinated or participated in a gala series of contributions to public service.

It began by operating a Special Event Station for 28 hours commemorating the Birthplace of Speed, 1902, Ormond Beach, Florida. An attractive, 9 x 12, certificate, suitable for framing is being awarded to all participants desiring one.

The SE was followed by a two-meter network simulating communications between Santa Claus and students at the Keech Street Head Start School.

The final event furnished vital two-meter communications assisting in the control and the welfare of participants in a 30-kilometer, a 15-kilometer and a wheelchair race.

Too many dedicated volunteers were involved to include names. Suffice to say, anyone listening to or observing amateur radio as it participated in these events must be appreciative of the sacrifices of all concerned. And to all members of our beloved fraternity, yes, amateur radio has once again soared just a little higher on its dedicated flight of destiny.



At the Dec. 21st S.E. QCWA chapter Christmas party at the U. S. Coast Guard Communications Rec. Center in South Dade, Tom Jones KB4OI, displays his Home built 1920 Spark Transmitter (Below 200 meters) Parts supplied by Martin W4BH. Built on a wooden chasis the Rotor Spark motor with variable speed motor (to change pitch of frequency) is on front right in photo. The power transformer with a varaible voltage core from 600 to 2000 V. A. C. is lower left. The varible antenna coils slide on 2 by 2 inch hard wood to adjust to frequency. Tom was going to fire it up but the Coast Guard duty officer (NMN) had other suggestions on the subject. Tom and Al Wilcox W4ELR will have the rig on display at the QCWA Booth during the Miami Hamboree. (Photo by Geo. Masterson W4UAA.)

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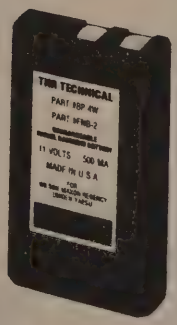

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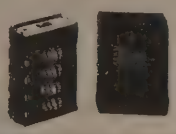

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F.C.C. INFORMATION PAGE

AUBURNDALE AREA

W5YI exams, technical through extra, are to be held on the third Saturday of each month starting at 9:00 a.m. They will be held in the First Presbyterian Church on 410 Pilaklakaha Avenue (PK Avenue), Auburndale, Florida. Between Winter Haven and Lakeland on Highway 92. Turn off 92nd on Ariana Avenue, go two stop signs and turn left on PK Avenue. It's the second building on right.

Walk-ins accepted on test available basis. Reservations requested. There is a fee of $5.25 for tech through extra.

For information contact: Pete Salvage at (813) 646-2526 or Bill Loop at (813) 967-5952.

BREVARD COUNTY

ARRL/VEC exams by Consolidated V.E.'s of Brevard County — Room Q-22 — Florida Institute of Technology — Melbourne — 10:00 a.m. (check-in 0930) — third Saturday of every month.

No pre-registration required. Form 610 provided. Bring original and photocopy of current license.

HIALEAH

W5YI coordinated FCC tests. Novice through extra. Due to space limitations, pre-registration is required. Contact Ivan Prada, KP4EDL at (305) 829-0602 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Exams are every third Saturday of the month. Fee is $5.25. Novice candidates are free.

SUNRISE

CAVEC exams by Racal-Milgo in Sunrise twice per month; on the first Saturday at 8:45 a.m. and on the third Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 1601 N.W. 136th Avenue (North Harrison Parkway).

No pre-registration required.

Bring: the original and one copy of your license, the original of any credit certificate (or copy of FCC Form 610 for novice credit), proof of identity (driver's license with photo, etc.) and $2 (except novice which is free).

For further information call: Chip Allen, AK4Y at his home at 476- 8761; or Joe Loewy, KB4FO either at his home 434-8211 or work 846-4567. For 24-hour recorded information call 846-4444.

Talk-in on 145.270 (Tx 600 KHz).

CITRUS COUNTY

License exams are scheduled for the third Saturday in the odd numbered months at 8:30 a.m. at the Citrus County Emergency Operations Center on West Southern Street in Lecanto. (West off C.R. 491, one-quarter mile north of S.R. 44.)

Reservations preferred, walk-ins accepted while supplies last. Bring original ham license and photocopy, certificates for prior exam credits if any, photo identification as driver's license, pen & pencils and $5.25 fee. Phone Dwight, KJ4AP, (904) 746-4306 for reservations and information.

DADE CITY

W5YI exams — novice, tech and extra — are given on the third Tuesday in Dade City High School at 6:30 p.m.

Bring original or photocopy of current license, any CSCE, two picture-type identifications and $5.25. 610's provided.

For details call: Slim Franklin, AB4OC at (904) 583-2856.

DADE CITY AREA

W5YI exams — technician through extra class (novice exams by reservation only) — are conducted the third Wednesday of each month except December, in the Tampa Electric Company, Community Room, 602 East Meridian Avenue (two blocks east of Highway 301) in Dade City, Florida at 6:30 p.m.

Bring the original and a photocopy of your current license, any CSCE and a $5.00 fee.

Form 610 will be furnished and pre-registration is recommended. Exams by appointment will be conducted for those persons with special needs.

Contact Dan Wilson, AB4LN at (904) 521-3494 or (904) 583-5120 evenings and weekends for further information.

DADE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

Exams will be held at the Dade County Emergency Operations Center, 5600 S.W. 87th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33173, at 9:00 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month.

Walk-in exams on test available basis. Bring a photocopy of your current license, photo identification, pen and pencil and a $4.75 check payable to ARRL/VEC. FCC Form 610 available at exam.

For further information contact Tom Sherwood, AL7HW at 255-3170 after 5:00 p.m.

NORTH DADE • SOUTH BROWARD AREA

FCC exams are given on the fourth Thursday of each month by a W5YI-VEC team at 5:30 p.m. prior to the regular monthly meeting of the Fellowship Radio Club at Ingall's Park in Hallandale at 735 S.W. 1st Street.

No charge for novice . . . all others $5.25.

Please bring the original of your license and a photocopy and positive identification.

For more information call Howard, N4EBT at (305) 935-5214 or Norm, K4RBR at (305) 823-5437 (evenings).

FT. PIERCE • PORT ST. LUCIE • ST. LUCIE COUNTY

The Ft. Pierce Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring ARRL/VEC exams on the fourth Saturday of each month. Location is the St. Anastasia School, 401 South 33rd Street in Ft. Pierce (From I-95, take Orange Avenue East Exit, go to the first traffic light and turn right. Church and school is just before the traffic light on 33rd Street.)

Bring the original and one copy of your license, the original and copy of credit certificate and identification.

Register at 9:00 a.m. and the test will begin at 9:30 a.m.

For further details call: Fred Neumann at (407) 340-1069 or Bill Shishler at (407) 466-5648.

F.C.C. LINES

W5YI coordinated tests — novice through extra — every third Saturday of the month at 8:00 p.m.

Limited space available, so you need to call to reserve space. Sessions are small . . . no more than 15 candidates at a time.

New 1992 fee is $5.40.

Contact Ivan Prada at 829-0602 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. only, or in packet KP4EDL @ KP4EDL. No.: ARCFL.FL.USA.NA.

HERNANDO COUNTY EXAMS

The Hernando Volunteer Examining Council (HERVEC) with Clover Leaf ARC and Spring Hill ARC co-sponsors are conducting monthly exams novice through extra, each third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at Springfield High School in Spring Hill. The Clover Leaf Visitor's Center in Brooksville is the alternate exam site.

Walk-ins are welcome.

For information contact Paul Sauer, K4ZC at (904) 683-3167.

LAKE COUNTY, CENTRAL FLORIDA

W5YI VEC exams will be held on the third Saturday of each month in 1992. Test time is 9:30 a.m. The location is the Lake Amateur Radio Association Clubhouse just west of Tavares, Florida. Go two miles west of Tavares on U.S. Highway 441 to CR 473. North one mile on CR 473 to the Haines Creek Baptist Church. The clubhouse and 180-foot tower are behind the church.

Walk-ins permitted. Bring a copy of ham license, copies of any certificates of successful completion of exam and positive identification. Cost is $5.40 for 1992.

Talk-in on 147.255, K4FC, repeater.

Contact Paul, K3NON at (904) 343-8729 for more information.

WEST PASCO COUNTY

The Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring ARRL/VEC exam sessions — novice through extra — on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Location is the Adult Education Center, 1510 South Boulevard, New Port Richey.

Walk-ins accepted on a materials available basis. Pre-registration strongly advised.

Bring original and photocopy of current amateur radio license, positive identification, check for $5.40 payable to ARRL/VEC (no fee for novice exam) and original and photocopy of any CSCE. Form 610 will be furnished.

Talk-in on 146.67 (Tx-600).

For information contact Fred, AA4FG (813) 849-1224 or Ralph, W2GLW (813) 842-8351.

OCALA/CENTRAL FLORIDA

W5YI exams are held each month (except November and December) on the last Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at the St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 2802 N.E. 7th Street, Ocala, Florida.

All exams, novice through extra, are given on a walk-in basis. Fee is $4.75. Novices are free. Talk-in is available on 145.130 repeater.

For information contact Jim, KA2MBE at (904) 236-0744; or Joe, KA4WJB at (904) 351-0985.

MARION COUNTY FLORIDA

Tests are given the second Monday of every second month (February, April, June, August, October and December) at 7:00 p.m. (sharp) . . . novice through extra. Walk-ins are welcome.

The location is the Green Clover Hall in the Marion County Government Complex off Route 40 on Ft. King and 25th Avenue in Ocala, Florida.

Bring $4.95 and a copy of license.

For more information call R. Brenner, KA4RWB at (904) 237-5783 or write to 5690 S.W. 36th Avenue, Ocala, Florida 32674 and send a SASE for a reply.

PALM BEACH AREA

The Palm Beach Amateur Radio Council and Palm Beach Community College Amateur Radio Club are giving amateur radio license tests on the third Saturday of each month (except October is at hamfest) at 9:00 a.m. at Palm Beach Community College, 4200 Congress Avenue, Lake Worth, in Criminal Justice Room 101, for $5.25 in 1991 (I-95 and Sixth Avenue South and go west).

Walk-ins permitted as long as we have test materials available.

October is on Saturday and Sunday at 9:00 a.m. at Palm Beach County Hamfest at South Florida Fair Grounds on State Road 80 (Southern Boulevard) — west of Turnpike (no exit).

BOCA RATON

The Siemens Amateur Radio Club sponsors ARRL/VEC coordinated exams the third Friday every month at 17:30 hours, except December which will be the second Friday. The tests will be given at the Spanish River High School, 5100 Jog Road, Room 8207, Boca Raton.

Pre-registration is recommended, but walk-ins are accepted if testing materials are available. Novice exams are free . . . all others are $4.96.

Bring a photo identification, your original license and a copy and the original and a copy of any CSCE's. All forms are provided.

Contact Ron Diego at (407) 994-7168 during business hours or (407) 487-1726 evenings and weekends for more information or to pre-register.

WEST PASCO COUNTY

The Suncoast Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring W5YI-VEC exam sessions on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The exam location is the Pasco County Building, 530 Sunset Road, New Port Richey (just east of U.S. 19 — one mile south of the Pithlachascotee River Bridge).

Pre-registration is strongly advised, and the deadline is the Saturday preceding the exam date, thereafter, walk-ins will be accpeted on a materials availability basis.

Talk-in on 145.350 (Tx-600).

Remember to bring with you. two forms of identification, originals and copies of your license and CSCE's if any and the $5.25 fee required for the technical through extra exams.

For registration and/or information call: Mary Borngraber, WC2G, (813) 938-7810.

DUNEDIN — TAMPA BAY AREA

W5YI-VEC coordinated amateur radio exams are conducted by the Dunedin ARC/VE testing team on the first Monday of every month. If the first Monday is a holiday, then the tests are held on the second Monday.

Testing begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Foreign Language Building, Number 99, Dunedin High School, 1615 Pinehurst Road, Dunedin.

Remember to bring with you, two forms of identification, originals and copies of your license and CSCE's if any and the $4.95 fee required for the tech through extra exams. Talk-in on 145.110 or 145.310 (Tx-600).

For registration and/or information call WC2G at (813) 938-7810 or W8RH at (813) 535-2034. Mailing address is: P.O. Box 1851, Dunedin, Florida 34697.

TAMPA EVENING TESTING

W5YI-VEC exams will be held the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (except November and December). Sessions will be replaced by one date in early December due to holidays. (Phone for exact date during November.)

Testing location is the second floor of the American Red Cross Building, 217 North Howard Avenue, Tampa.

Novice exams are free. All others $4.75 cash. Bring with you the original and a photocopy of your current license and original and photocopies of CSCE's, if any.

To resolve questions or obtain holiday season dates contact Scott, KA4FRO at (813) 685-2514.

THE PANHANDLE AT A GLANCE

By "Matt" Matthew, KC4RKJ

Here it is . . . the 1992 Panhandle Hamfest season. The arrangements for the sites are completed. Yes, even the state tax office has been informed and the proper forms will be available and ready.

Flyers are being printed and labels are on hand. The labels will be stuck on the fliers by club volunteers at a weekend get together. Next they will be sorted by zip code and finally, mailed.

Letters to vendors have been mailed. Phones are standing by for inquiries about tables and presale tickets.

Various committees are meeting to resolve those little problems that will turn up in operations of this size.

Arrangements for RV parking have been completed. Meeting rooms are assigned. The public address system and its installation have been completed. The volunteers, who will provide and prepare the menu for the food and drink to be sold, are working on the booth staffing and placing orders.

Forum meeting times and the speakers, who are to present the program, are now being firmed up.

Volunteers for various jobs have been corraled. Talk-in personnel are looking at local maps. A group is looking into the possibility of a recorded message on a local repeater.

Signs are in the making and the assignments as to who will put them up at pre-determined locations are being made.

Items for drawings are ordered and the times of drawings have been determined. Women aren't forgotten either. Special drawings and prizes are in the works, also. Tickets for the drawings are at the printer.

Buttons have been ordered so buyers can go in and out to your car with all those new pieces of equipment or the boat anchors that you bought.

Presale of tickets are beginning to be received. The "old-timers" in this preparation are answering questions by those who are inexperienced in the running of the show.

Most of those who attend these shows don't realize that all this has been done and that volunteers have worked hard to make it all come together. It doesn't just happen. Neither big nor small hamfests can exist without all this preparation.

The first Panhandle Hamfest of 1992 will be the Pensacola Hamfest on February 15th. This hamfest is a one-day affair which runs from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the Municipal Auditorium. You can call Mike, N4MAD, about tables at (904) 453-3995; Bill, WA4YRN, hamfest chairman, for general information at (904) 476-8537; and/or Don, WA4GYR for forum information at (904) 453-6256.

Talk-in will be on 146.76 or 444.925.

Everything from dealer exhibits, food on site, hourly prizes, XYL prizes, free parking, a swapfest, forums, awards and an equipment test table will be available.

Apparently no testing will take place at this one-day affair.

The second hamfest of the Panhandle season is the 22nd North Florida Ham/Swapfest on March 21-22, 1992. The Saturday session will run from 8:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m., and the Sunday hours are 8:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. The hamfest will again be held at the Ft. Walton Beach Fairgrounds.

For advanced table reservations call Len, WD4KKV at (904) 862-5771.

RV parking is available. We recommend you call Tony, DC4YBE at (904) 581-0156, early.

For those of you who enjoy forums the following meetings are listed: DX, a combined MARS meeting, Gulf Coast VHF Traffic Net, QCWA, ARRL and ARES.

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Drawings for awards will take place on both Saturday (4:00 p.m.) and Sunday (1:00 p.m.).

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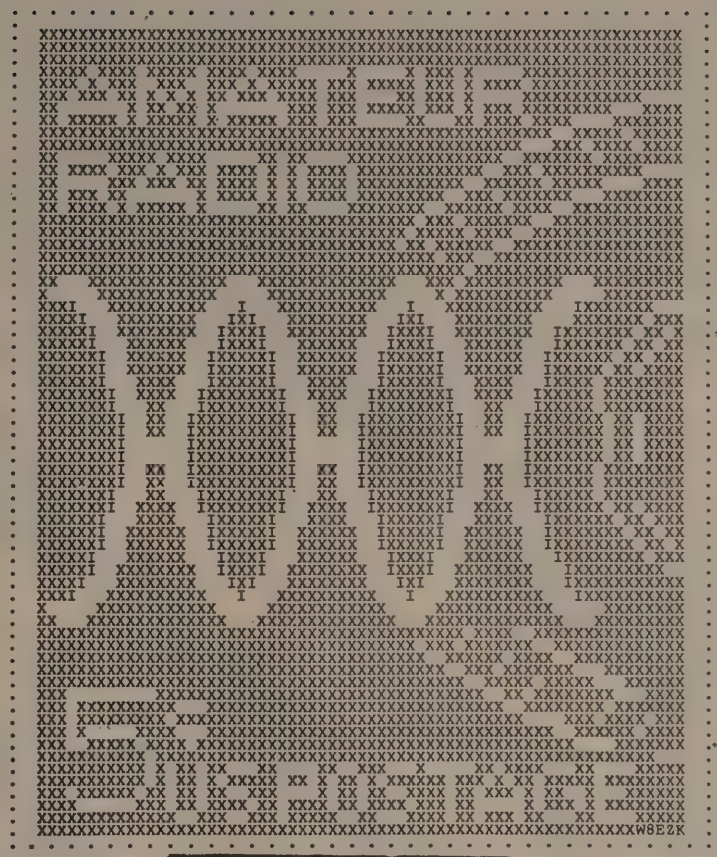

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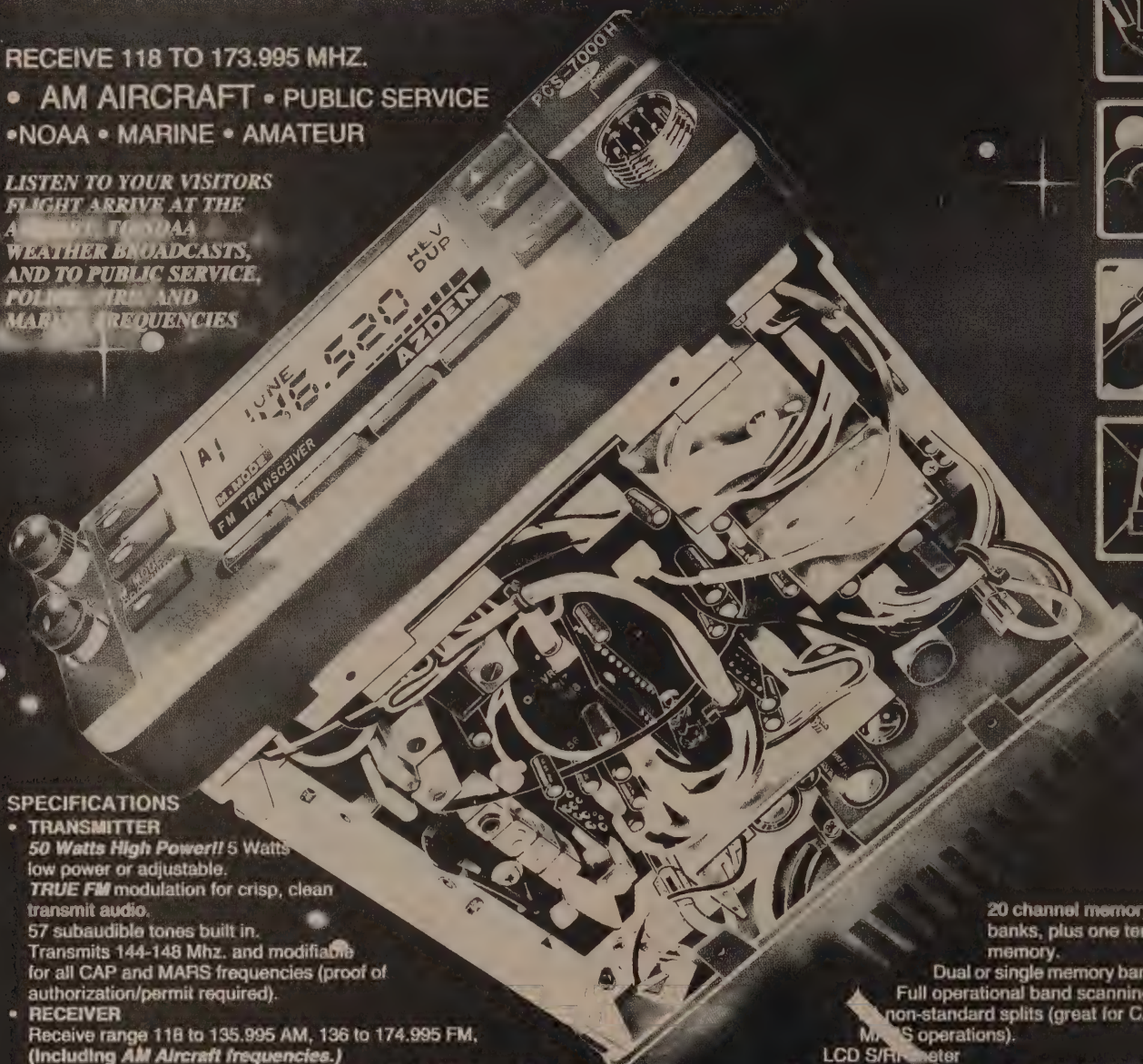

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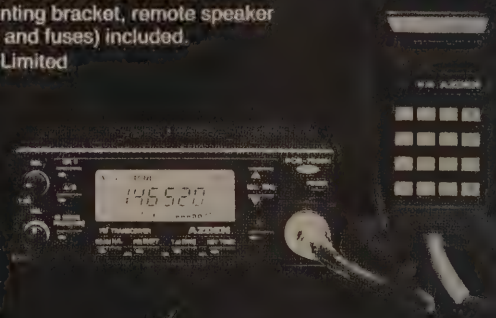

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—Editor.

WANTED: QUOTE ON all Collins equipment, surplus tube stocks any quantities, tube testers, NCX-3 power supply. unique wire tuner. Milt Levy W5QJT, 539 McCorty Suite 407, San Antonio, TX 78216 512-366-3290.

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HE WHO AIMS AT NOTHING HAS A VERY GOOD CHANCE OF HITTING IT....tks W4ELR

UPGRADING STATION--All Yaesu for sale. Pictured on front page of October SKIP. Ft101EX, FT101F, FL2100B, YS2000 YP150Z, FV101B, YC601, S)101PB. Excellent condition including manuals. Z. Jane Goodwin KB4QWG, P. O. Box 214, New Smyrna Beach, FL 332170 904 423-1711/nights.

SELL: 40 ft. heavy duty aluma two section crank down tilt over tower. Alliance No. 73 rotor, control box. Twelve - 13 ft fiberglass spreaders. Kappy WA4WTG, 718 S.E. 3 Lane, Dania, FL 33004 305 920-5576

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WANTED: Collins 75A4, KWM1, KWM2, 32S3, 75S3B/C 516F2 and all accessories. John Bruscella W2LEC, 5795 La Paseos, Lake Worth, FL 33463 407 439-0711.

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SELL: L4B amp Drake $750. KWM2A, 135 xtal pack. $550. TenTec Tri-Ton 4 transceiver $300. Heath HA-14 amp with PS $300. Optoelectronics FC-50C freq counter $125. Johnson KW Match Box $150. Estate Sale Fene Rhodes W4FNY, Gene Rhodes P.O. Box 147, Deleon Springs, FL 322130 904-985-5103.

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SELL: SWAN 700CX, SBE2B 2 meter with HB P.S. Test equipment, etc. Best offer. Charlie Lingo WA4RSX, 2814 SW 5th St. Miami, FL 305 642-6963.

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SELL; Alden mod. 9321 weather chart recorder complete with books and all accessories. New cost $2000.00, SELL $400. or best cash offer. Also TONO mod. 5000 E sender and decoder CW RTTY ASC II, Amtor, etc. Complete with book and accessories. Built in monitor $350. The above equipment is like new used on non-smoker. S. T. Carter II W4NHC, P O Box 033177, Indialantic, FL 32903-0177 407 727-3015.

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HOW I "INVENTED" WIRELESS

By Russ Rennaker, W9CRC
1011 Linda Drive, Kokomo, IN 46902

It was quite by accident that I became involved in radio. I was a 10-year-old kid on a farm in Central Indiana. The year was 1916, just a year before we entered the First World War.

Like most 10 year olds, I was an inquisitive youngster. I liked to see how things worked. I ruined many of my tops by tearing them apart to see how they worked. I think the first thing I remember was an alarm clock. I never did get it back together, but I found out what made it work.

I had a friend about my own age who lived down the road about a half-mile from our farm. He, too, was interested in the same kinds of things that I was and we made a great pair.

We needed some kind of communication between our houses and we thought up all kinds of schemes. At one time we had a set of colored flags, which we could hoist in view of both houses. We used different colors for different things. Blue would be "Can you come over?" and so forth. This didn't work out too well as we couldn't just stand in our front yard and wait for a flag signal.

My friend's uncle was a telegrapher in the railway station in the little town a few miles from where we lived. We loved to sit in the station and listen to the telegraph instruments click out their messages. We actually learned the Morse code that summer. The uncle said what we needed was some practice of our own and gave us some old used instruments and showed us how to hook them up.

We had a lot of fun with the telegraph sets, but it didn't improve the communication between our two houses. One day my friend had an idea. Why not use the top wire of the fence that runs past both our houses and put one set of instruments in each house. We ran a wire from the fence into each house and hooked up the instruments and sure enough it worked. That is, it worked in dry weather, but when it rained and the fence posts got wet, it failed to work. But, we had fun that summer.

This was in the days of the early Ford automobiles. The spark coils that fired the gasoline in the cylinders intrigued me. They were easily obtainable from any auto parts store and I bought a couple to play around with.

One thing I liked to do was hook the spark coil up to some object in the workshop and then ask whoever was my playmate that day to bring the object to me. Just as he picked it up I would apply the battery to the coil and of course he would get quite a shock.

Being on a farm it was natural for my father to have quite a workshop.

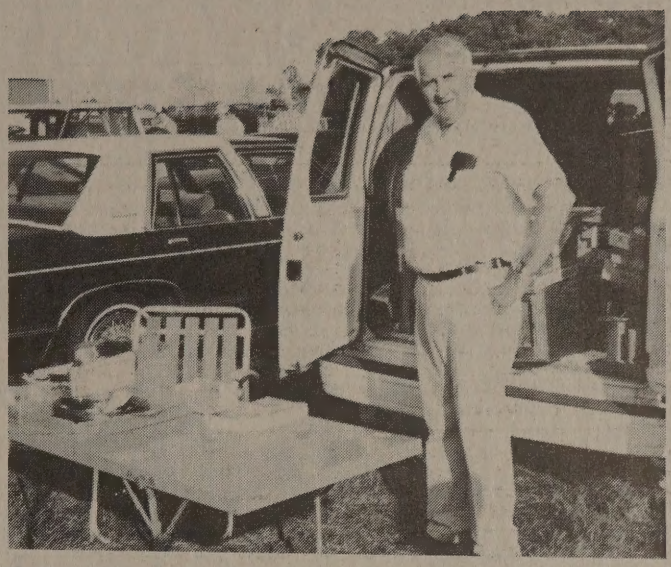
One day when I was playing with the spark coil in the workshop I discovered when I turned it on and a spark was produced between the two terminals the iron filings on the work bench acted up, sort of dancing around. I thought this was very peculiar. I noticed the iron filings lined up in a certain kind of pattern, like lining up a bunch of kids all facing the same direction.

I thought there must be something useful I could do with that knowledge. I put some of the iron filings in a small glass tube and inserted a copper wire in each end and added a battery and a telegraph sounder to the circuit. Now when I turned the spark coil on the sounder clicked. It appeared that when the iron filings lined up magnetically, they conducted current and caused the sounder to click.

This was a great discovery. I called my friend over for a discussion about the phenomenon. Of course I thought I had discovered something of great importance. Later, I was to learn it had been discovered years before and had even been used commercially.

My friend and I found out it worked well when the glass tube was only a few feet away from the spark, but when we moved them farther away it wouldn't work. However, if we attached a short piece of wire to one end of the spark gap it increased the distance appreciably. Then we fastened a similar wire to one end of the iron filings tube and discovered the system would work about twice as far.

My friend suggested we make the wires longer and fasten them higher in the air. We found it now worked between the workshop and my bedroom in the main house, some 300 feet away.



Forrest Haynes, K4YPO of West Palm Beach selling his antenna supplies at the Okeechobbee Hamfest last December.

Then we become bold. We moved one set of instruments over to my friend's house and ran the wire out a window to the top of their barn. At my house we ran a wire out of the workshop window and up to the top of our house. It worked. The only problem was that we still couldn't send Morse code as the sounder stayed down until someone disconnected the battery.

Well, anyhow, we now had a communication system between our houses. We replaced the telegraph sounders with door bells and rigged the clapper on the bell so that it tapped the glass tube when it rang and this disturbed the iron filings and interrupted the circuit, thus stopping the bell from ringing.

One bell meant "Can you come over?" two bells meant, "I'm coming over there," and three bells meant, "Let's meet at the big oak tree." We may have had other signals, but those are what I remember.

The following summer I read about crystal detectors, galena rocks and resonant wavelengths. I also read where iron filings detectors, called Coherers and the clapper to disconnect the circuit called a Dechoherer, had been used in some wireless experiments in England a few years earlier. That didn't help my ego any. I thought I had invented it.

So crystal detectors became common and was still widely used in 1920 when KDKA began the first commercial broadcasting station.

The old Ford spark coil was still an important item in my "wireless" room for we did not have electricity at that time and the only power I had was a storage battery. Of course I had to charge the battery from time to time. I rigged a Ford generator up to the gasoline engine my father used to pump water for the livestock, and ran some wires over to my radio shack and connected them to the battery. When he pumped water my battery got charged.

The spark coil worked fine as a transmitter, and with some luck and many unscientific experiments I managed an inductance coil of one-quarter inch copper tubing that could be tuned somewhere close to the 200 meters amateurs were allowed to use. No one had any way of actually measuring the wavelength anyway. The word "frequency" did not come into common use until some years later.

But "wireless" as a means of communication was here to stay, even though it became "radio" a few years later, and the crystal detector was replaced with vacuum tubes.

The humiliation of knowing I did not invent wireless soon wore off, but I stayed in the communications field until this day.

W9CRC is author of "A Radio Journal — 1912-1940."

EGYPT from page 1

Along these same lines of reasoning, if you have no license, then you have no need for the equipment. So, first, you must first own your own equipment. To get your own equipment is always very difficult and very expensive through normal custom channels as all equipment must be purchased elsewhere. There are no amateur radio stores in this country.

To order equipment through the mail would be a hardship because of the enormous import tax and restrictions placed on all electronic equipment. The tax on a simple VCR camera may be as much as 100 percent.

Not yet having a license, you do not need the equipment, so to have a piece of equipment such as a transmitter is prohibited. FCC divorces themselves from Customs, so how one gets this equipment is not their concern.

A few of you get together and form a club. Soon, just about every major amateur equipment manufacturer in the world offers to donate equipment to your radio club to help promote amateur radio.

The government sees it as a deceptive advertising scheme promoting for the donor's equipment, and will not allow your club to receive any gifts. Also, the government thinks this is going to be a problem with controlling the use of the equipment from so many.

To get new equipment, you may buy some older used equipment, or maybe a visiting friend or tourist may bring it in as a gift. If he gets past Customs, all well and good. If someone coming through brings in a VCR camera an entry will be made on his passport and he must put up a security deposit. When he leaves the country with the equipment he will get the deposit back.

With something like a transmitter the equipment will be taken until he leaves the country, and even then if they can find it before the plane leaves. You may purchase some equipment yourself when you visit another country. New equipment may be brought back in "carry-on luggage." If found a $20.00 tip will sometimes pass you through the airport Customs, especially if a friend is on duty. Once new equipment is obtained, older equipment is normally passed down to friends that are waiting to become hams.

When you do get on the air, you are never in need of finding a response when putting out a CQ. To enjoy a simple rag chew will be almost impossible and often difficult because of the QRM or from other hams trying to work your rare location.

If or when you are ever lucky enough and have the privilege to work one of the six active SU stations in Egypt, consider it a rare opportunity to have worked such a special station. To have a QSO with a real/true "international" amateur radio operator is even rarer because of how amateur radio is in Egypt!

I had the rare opportunity to become acquainted with an Egyptian amateur radio operator while working in Egypt.

To visit and become acquainted with Mr. Ezzat S. Ramadan Suier, SU1ER, and to listen to his knowledge and experiences in amateur radio — its restraints, restrictions and difficulties — will put the hobby as we know it in America in a completely different perspective and appreciation because of the difficulties just to be part of it.

My exposure to amateur radio in Egypt have left me with a deeper appreciation for the privilege and freedom we have. First, as an American! Second, as an amateur radio operator.

We discussed how difficult it is to understand while listening on the air from America, how some "operators" seem to do all they can to destroy the service.

Mr. Ramadan, SU1ER, is an outstanding example of an international amateur radio operator who overcame the odds while having to meet and conquer the obstacles just to be a ham. It was difficult to explain to him that we have those in America now! We have hams who do not want to go through the trouble of learning the code to get their ticket. He could not understand because "this should be their challenge."

Maybe getting a license in our country has become too easy, and what comes easy, normally is not appreciated.

Amateur radio just may well be one of the last frontiers. A society that has no borders of land nor language barriers, and a genuine honest recognition, respect and appreciation of each other as individuals who share a common interest.

As been said before . . . "Amateur radio is a common language." It surely is a privilege and is not a "right" as some have

Otto Freytag K4QFM of Rivier& each sent us this photo of his well supplied (note upper right) Ham shack. As you can see he like Jap equipment. Otto works ONLY C.W. on most bands. (photo by K4QFM.)

North Pole from page 1

various toys was donated mainly by members of the club and the club itself donated an addition $100.00.

The way the operation works is that a team of three hams go to the various hospitals to visit the children's wards. The administrators are contacted in advance to set things up and possibly have most of the children in a central play area. Some of the patients are of course in very bad condition and cannot leave their rooms in which case the team goes to them.

Then, "Santa" waits in the hallway while the "elves" go in to see the children and ask them individually if they would like to speak with Santa at the North Pole. One of the "elves" whispers the child's name and possibly a little description to Santa so he can say something like, "Well, Denise, I hope you are feeling better. You look very pretty with that red ribbon in your hair." The eyes usually open wide and no matter how badly they may be feeling, everything is forgotten for that magic moment.

Then, Santa instructs the "elves" over the two-meter radio to give a toy to the child together with some colorful decals.

The program has been a big success and many of these children, some of whom may not be around next Christmas, are given a few minutes of joy and a little gift from Santa, and this gives Santa, his elves and the members of the Fellowship Club a warm glow.

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implied on the air. A privilege must be respected and protected for the good of our past and the future, less we can surely abuse and lose it.

Editor's Note: Al called yea Ed direct by telephone from Egypt December 28th at 2:00 p.m. to wish me a happy New Year! It sounded like he was calling from Hialeah, across the Miami River from Miami Springs. Al also wishes all his Florida friends a happy New Year. Thanks Al for the phone call. I was thrilled!

— A.C.

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Thanks for your cooperation in this important matter.

— 73, Editor